

EASTLAND ISSUES AMERASIA REPORT

Step Linked to Overtures by
Nixon to Peking Regime

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14—

Controversy over a magazine called Amerasia, buried and nearly forgotten since the days of Senator Joseph R. McCarthy, has been revived in an effort to cast doubt on the wisdom of the Nixon Administration's attempts at a dialogue with Communist China.

The Senate Internal Security Subcommittee today issued a collection of confidential government documents that were seized by Federal Bureau of Investigation in June, 1945, mostly from the offices of Amerasia.

The documents, including field reports from John Stewart Service, a diplomat, were seized on the ground that they had been illegally obtained by the magazine.

Charges that Mr. Service had given some of them to Amerasia editors led to his dismissal from the Foreign Service in 1951 as a security risk. The Supreme Court ruled in 1957 that he had been wrongfully discharged and ordered his reinstatement. Mr. Service is now at the University of California, Berkeley.

The Amerasia editors were accused by conservatives of using Mr. Service's reports and other secret documents to discredit Nationalist rule in China before the Communist conquest of the mainland in 1949.

Nothing was ever proved, but Senator McCarthy, the Wisconsin Republican, used the allegations as a basis for the disloyalty charges he leveled in the early nineteen-fifties.

Eastland Sees Lesson

Today Senator James O. Eastland, Democrat of Mississippi and chairman of the subcommittee, said in a foreword to the report that "in telling and retelling of the Amerasia story there is a lesson for all of us, and especially for all the officials in our government, whether or not in the diplomatic service, who would learn and benefit from the mistakes of the past."

Included in the two-volume, 1,800-page report, titled "The Amerasia Case: A Clue to the Catastrophe of China," was an analysis of the affair written by Anthony Kubek, an historian at the University of Dallas.

Dr. Kubek's 113-page interpretation is a warning against a conciliatory policy toward Communist China. He contended that American policy toward China was subverted during World War II, that because China was lost the wars in Korea and Vietnam became inevitable, and that the Amerasia case was pertinent today.

The report of the subcommittee was released just five days before American and Chinese diplomats were scheduled to meet in Warsaw. That's to be the second of the series of meetings resumed last month after a lapse of two years.

Implicit in the Nixon Administration's China policy is a reduction of the United States political commitment, though not its military one, to the Nationalist government of President Chiang Kai-Shek on Taiwan.

Taiwan Regime Supported

Dr. Kubek, who in 1963 wrote a book called "How the Far East was lost: American Policy and the Creation of Communist China, 1941-1949," said in the subcommittee report today that "hindsight informs us that a monumental mistake was made in diminishing American support of the National Government of China in the final phase of its long struggle against the Chinese Communists."

J. C. Sourwine, chief counsel of the subcommittee, said the timing of the report's publication was not significant. Other sources on Capitol Hill said, however, that the subcommittee had decided that now was a good time to get the report off the shelf because of the turmoil in Vietnam, Laos and China.

In March, 1969, the subcommittee instructed its staff and Dr. Kubek to push ahead with the project, which had been commissioned two years earlier.

The subcommittee and Dr. Kubek contend that the report contains previously unpublished documents, but they were not able to say which of the 315 printed documents had not been made public before.